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CERTIFICATION BY FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission in accordance with § 1.6(d) addressed to Art Unit 1652, Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 to Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below.

Date:

July 6, 2006

By:

Mari Kleineidam
Mari Kleineidam

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. GCX329-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of |) | Group Art Unit: 1652 |
| Van der Laan <i>et al.</i> |) | Examiner: Christian Fronda |
| Serial No.: 07/565,673 |) | |
| Filed: August 10, 1990 |) | |
| For: Efficient Production of Mutant Proteases |) | |

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 2, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2006, and in support for the current Request for Continued Examination (RCE), Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made.

A complete list of the Claims, including marked-up versions of the rewritten, added, withdrawn, and/or cancelled claims is provided below, beginning on page 2. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*¹. The Remarks begin on page 4, while the Conclusion is on page 7.

¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).